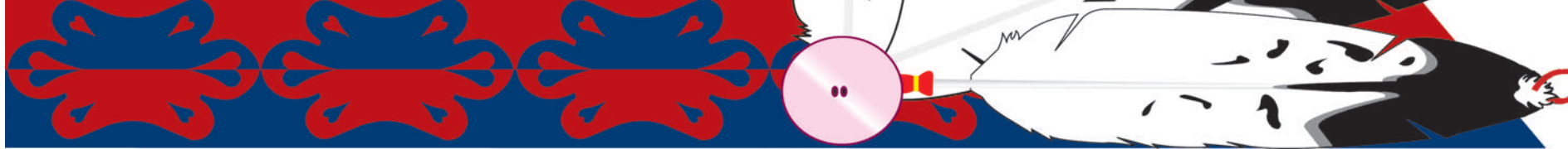


MENOMINEE NATION NEWS



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75¢

DOT Cutbacks Impact on Menominee Nation Roads

Trilby Beauprey McIntosh
Menominee Nation News

Maybe you weren't aware of the Menominee County Highway's Department crisis due to Wisconsin Department of Transportation's budget cutbacks but the impact to the highway maintenance and operations budget by the Wisconsin State Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance was felt by Menominee County Highway Department with a \$50,000 budget cut.

With the winter maintenance reductions, Ben Warrington of the Menominee County Highway Department stated, "Menominee County Highway Department has been instructed to provide service between the hours of 4 a.m. and 6 p.m. during the week and only 8 hours per day on weekends and holidays. This will affect everyone traveling State highways in the County/Reservation."

In response to the emergency Menominee County and Shawano County Highway Departments held a joint meeting to discuss local issues. Menominee representatives, Ben Warrington, Menominee County Highway Commissioner, Ed Spredemann of the Menominee County Highway Department and Menominee County Police Officer, Kevin Rogers and Tribal Police Officer Nacotee were also in attendance.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Allen C. Beyer, P.E., District Area Maintenance Supervisor from the Division of Transportation



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Standing, James Mitchell, Shawano County Highway Commissioner and seated, (l-r) Ben Warrington, Ed Spredemann of the Menominee County Highway Department and Menominee Police Officer Nacotee participate in the joint meeting held with the two highway departments to discuss the issues raised by the DOT cutbacks on Wednesday, December 10, 2003. Not pictured were the dedicated snowplowers and additional police officers in attendance from Shawano and Menominee Counties.

Districts was also in attendance. James Mitchell, Commissioner for the Shawano County Highway Department, snowplow drivers for Shawano County and a Shawano Police Officer participated in the meeting.

Commissioner, James Mitchell conducted the meeting and thanked the Sheriff Departments for the communication they provide to the highway

departments regarding the road conditions.

Allen Beyer explained to the highway crews the cuts were across the whole state in the maintenance operations for an overall loss of six percent. Locally, Shawano County gained because of the mileage for Highway 29 where Menominee County had a substantial cut for a small county.

Mr. Beyer explained Hwy. 29 went

from 24 hour winter maintenance to 18 hour. He also explained lower-volume highways would receive 14 hours of service from 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is a reduction from 18 hours of service during a storm. The higher volume two lane and lower volume four-lane highways will be reduced to 18 hours from 24 hours.

See CUTBACKS pg. 7

Breakfast with Santa!...and yes, even the Grinch!



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(l-r) Santa! and Grinch! were on hand for the Breakfast with Santa held on Saturday, December 13, 2003 at Keshena Primary School. Neopit Community Center and South Branch Community Center also had a Breakfast with Santa.

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